GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:346
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2001
GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN UNDER ICDS
SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in 'The Times of India' dated May05, 2001 regarding feeding of genetically modified food under ICDS;

(b) if so, whether about 800,000 women and children have been consuming, for almost 10 years, the genetically modified food under the nutrition Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) Scheme, received from CARE India, an international NGO; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to enquire so as to prevent this from happening?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a) Yes, Sir. However, the news-item appeared in 'The Times of India' dated May 04, 2001.

(b)&(c) Co-operative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE), an International Voluntary Organisation has been extending food aid for supplementary nutrition to children below 6 years and pregnant and lactating women under ICDS Scheme.The food commodities supplied by CARE are Corn Soya Blend (CSB) and Refined Vegetable oil.The Corn Soya Blend brought by CARE comes from Corn and Soyabean commercially produced in the United States where biotechnology products are not commonly segregated for domestic consumption or for exports. The food is allowed clearance from Indian Ports only after testing by Health authorities.